

Let it snow



The campus pulled on its much-anticipated winter blanket of snow on Dec. 6.

School of Public Health on path to accreditation

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta's School of Public Health has jumped the first hurdle in becoming Canada's first accredited public-health school.

The Council on Education for Public Health, the internationally recognized accrediting body for schools and programs in public health, has formally approved the U of A's request to begin the accreditation process for its school.

"I would suggest that successful accreditation of the School of Public Health will be a distinctive mark of quality that enhances our national and international reputation," said the school's dean, Sylvie Stachenko. "As we are the first School of Public Health it will also be standard-setting in terms of quality education in the field of public health in Canada."

"This should attract prospective students to our school who are seeking high standards for public-health educational programs."

Colin Soskolne, accreditation co-ordinator and a professor at the school, says the next move is to embark on a self-study, a two-year process that is concluded by an on-site visit from a team of peer reviewers. Soskolne said that, at that time, the School of Public Health's infrastructure would be held up against the CEPH's rigorous guidelines, which includes everything from how courses are taught and how students are evaluated to how the school is monitored going forward.

"To conform to the minimum standards of accreditation, we would thereby be competitive with other accredited schools and attract the best students and the best faculty," he said.

Public health at the U of A

continued on page 2

Helmholtz funds will help make oilsands cleaner

Brian Murphy

The University of Alberta's efforts help make the oilsands a cleaner, more sustainable energy resource got a \$25 million shot in the arm Dec. 2 from the Alberta government.

The U of A, in partnership with the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, is on a five-year mission to drive technological innovations towards cleaner energy production. The provincial grant money is the first major cash injection for the Helmholtz Alberta Initiative, which was formalized in September.

Indira Samarasekera, U of A president, says the university's researchers will put the money to good use. "We must focus on the here and now, on finding the energy solutions that will be needed for the next generation, which is why the Alberta Helmholtz Initiative is so important."

The key technological and environmental issues facing oilsands development are also concerns for coal operations in both Alberta and

Germany. Technology fixes will be shared by both countries, which Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach says is a positive sign of the way the university and the Helmholtz Association plan to work in concert towards environmental sustainability.

"I am encouraged that leading scientists at both the U of A and Helmholtz Association share the belief that we can achieve a more sustainable global energy future by working on these challenges together," he said.

Samarasekera added that the province's commitment to the U of A and a sustainable energy future is welcomed. "The Alberta government's ecoTrust grant is such a critical and welcomed part of the search for real solutions."

Alberta's granting funds come from Ottawa's ecoTrust program, established in 2007. The federal government has distributed \$1.5 billion to the provinces for self-directed spending on clean air and climate change programs.

The U of A is well acquainted with the initiative's focus on the oilsands, which includes cleaner

alternatives to tailings management and developing more efficient methods of reclamation. The university's expertise, with an annual budget of more than \$1.4 billion and attracting more than \$498 million in external research funding, will be shared

with the 16 research centres that fall under the umbrella of the Helmholtz Association. It is Germany's largest scientific organization with an annual budget of \$2.8 billion euros (C\$4.4 billion). ■



Visiting dignitaries are introduced to some of the research being done by the U of A's Reservoir Geomechanics Research Group by visiting researcher Guillaume Dufay.

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folio

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Research shows pollution increase a direct result of oilsands

Brian Murphy

After an exhaustive study of air and water pollution along the Athabasca River from Fort McMurray to Lake Athabasca, researchers say pollution levels have increased as a direct result of nearby oilsands operations.

University of Alberta biological sciences professor David Schindler was part of the team that conducted a long-term air and water study and found high levels of polycyclic aromatic compounds, a group of organic contaminants containing several known carcinogens, cancer-causing agents, mutagens, which can change the genetic composition of a material, and teratogens, chemicals that can disrupt the development of an embryo or fetus.

"We found PACs in parts per trillion, which are toxic [at those levels]," said Schindler. "We found concentrations that can cause death, mutations and deformities in fish embryos."

The highest levels of PACs were found within 50 kilometres of two major oilsands upgraders.

Schindler and the others report

that levels have reached a point where the airborne particulates left oil slicks on top of melted snow.

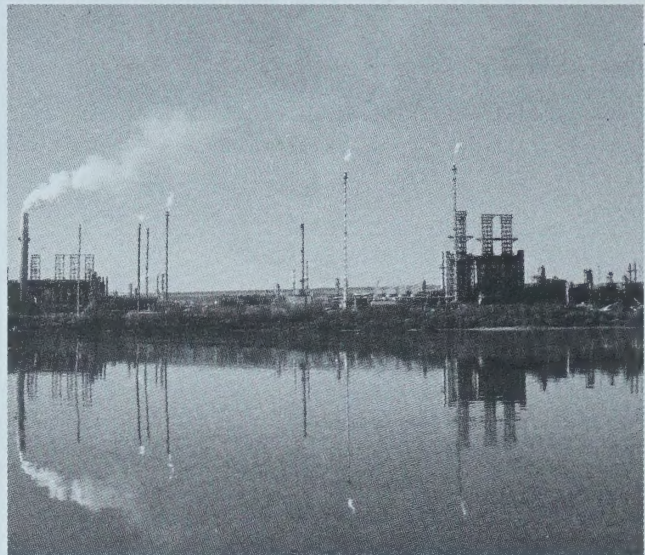
The research was carried out in the winter and summer of 2008 at 60 locations along the Athabasca River and its tributaries.

"We sampled every tributary to the Athabasca that had development on it," said Schindler. Air quality was measured by taking samples of snow. "We actually had people leaning out of helicopters taking samples from the snow covering the ice on the river."

The snow was melted down and gave researchers a look at a four-month record of air quality in the area. For the water samples, the researchers borrowed some technology from a government team that spent 20 years analyzing water quality in Alaska in the wake of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Schindler describes current government monitoring of the Athabasca's water and air quality as underwhelming. "Environment Canada has cut back and back to where they sample from one site downstream from the oilsands," said Schindler.

Schindler is hoping that govern-



A U of A research team says pollution levels have increased along the Athabasca River and its tributaries as a direct result of nearby oilsands operations.

ment and industry will follow up this research with testing of their own.

"We're alerting people to PAC levels and now something has to be done."

The research was published Dec. 7 in *Proceedings of the National*

Academy of Science. Erin Kelly is a post-doctoral fellow in the U of A Department of Biological Sciences and was the lead researcher on the paper. Other U of A contributors are Mingsheng Ma, Alvin Kwan and Barbra Fortin. ■

U of A expands northern partnerships

Michel Proulx

The University of Alberta is taking another step in re-affirming its commitment to the North by partnering with Yukon College and offering the bachelor of science in environmental and conservation sciences to northern residents beginning in January 2010.

"This is a very exciting initiative for the University of Alberta as it further cements our relationship with the North and our commitment to be the pre-eminent university in northern research and studies in Canada," said Carl Amrhein, provost and vice-president (academic).

"By engaging with northern communities in mutually beneficial partnerships like this one, we're providing tremendous opportunities for students and faculty at both institutions," he added.

"Science-based training is key to the North," said Karen Barnes, vice-president of education and training for Yukon College. "This bachelor of science offering is a very important step and opens the door to future program growth in this area."

The degree is being offered in what is commonly referred to as a "2+2" program, where students do the first two years of the program at another institution—in this case, Yukon College—and the last two years while enrolled at the U of A.

"We see this agreement as a natural extension of what our faculty has been doing since its creation in 1915," said John Kennelly, dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences, which

hosts the environmental and conversation sciences program.

Kennelly explained that his faculty has always seen its mandate as being province-wide, given the fact many of its programs, like the environmental and conversation sciences program, are unique. "We've always felt the responsibility to ensure we reach all Albertans. While this program is outside Alberta, it fits well with that philosophy," he said.

The program also involves another important partnership.

"Yukon College wanted a BSc with substantial First Nations content," said Ellen Bielawski, dean of the Faculty of Native Studies. "Our two faculties already jointly graduate students from such a program, so answering this need is a good partnership for all."

The northern curriculum will include third- and fourth-year courses from the Faculty of Native Studies.

Kennelly and Bielawski pointed out that some innovative approaches were needed to offer the program

so far away from Edmonton. They noted in particular the fact the university hired a faculty member, Fiona Schmiegelow, who is located in Whitehorse, to co-ordinate the program and deliver some of the courses. The university will also be recruiting expertise available at Yukon College and local government agencies to help deliver parts of the program.

Schmiegelow added they will be using alternative methods of delivery, including having U of A professors visit Yukon College and deliver full-term courses in a condensed format, rather than the usual method

of combining lectures and labs three hours every week for a semester.

"This program will fill a need to build capacity in northern studies and research," she said. "As it grows, we'll also be looking at finding ways to reach out to more people across the North using video conferencing and other distance-learning

technologies."

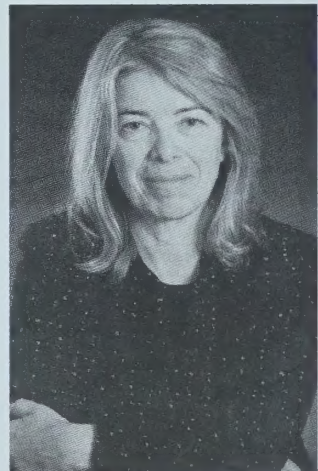
Kennelly added the faculty he leads sees this partnership as a first step that will give it valuable experience to deliver other programs at a distance. "In the future, we may well do the same thing for other programs in other jurisdictions," he said. ■

School of Public Health *continued from page 1*

takes its earliest roots from the Division of Health Services Administration, which was created on campus in the late 1950s within the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. The division was merged with Community Medicine becoming the Department of Public Health Sciences in 1982. In addition, the Centre for Health Promotion Studies began operating in the fall of 1996, and the Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research was created in September of 1998. In 2006, all three units were brought together under the one School of Public Health. When accredited, the school will be transformed once again.

"We're basically going through a process of reorganization in light of the accreditation requirements," said Soskolne. "It's a mammoth undertaking; we are essentially remaking ourselves over the next two years, while, of course, continuing with the 300 students we currently have in the system."

Soskolne says there is a long list of benefits that goes beyond attracting quality individuals, including promoting a safe society by assuring the education of competent public-health professionals, and telling prospective health-care officials around the



Sylvie Stachenko, dean of the School of Public Health

world that these U of A graduates have been held up to the strictest of public-health measures.

"We have to have structures, we have to have mentoring, we have to offer courses that comply with minimum accreditation standards," said Soskolne. "We can have particularities and interests and things that make it specific to meeting Canadian needs, but we have to meet this core need of training for public health. The whole point of accreditation is we join this family of accredited schools that have agreed to submit themselves to maintaining accreditation standards in the indefinite future." ■

Canadian consumers need a salt education

Bev Betkowski

If you're under the age of 24, dietitian Anna Farmer has some advice for you: start reading the labels on the food you're buying.

People in that age group are the least likely to read labels for sodium content, even as 80 per cent of Canadians surveyed by Farmer agree that their diet is too high in salt.

"Our findings showed that young people likely need to be targeted for more education about how much sodium to include in their diets," said Farmer, who is jointly appointed between the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences and the School of Public Health.

In research conducted by Farmer and her colleague Diana Mager, also a nutrition professor, a survey of 890 Canadians showed that fewer than 15 per cent of young people read food labels, and that 50 per cent of those

between the ages of 18 and 24 did not know whether or not Canadians were consuming too much sodium.

"Young people, like university students for instance, may eat out a lot or rely on processed foods for a quick meal and that would account for sodium that goes untracked," said Farmer, adding that, while young people may not feel the need to monitor their salt intake, that attitude is worrisome, Farmer said.

"The prevalence of high blood pressure among North Americans is increasing, and with it, the risk of heart disease. Young people are not immune to developing chronic conditions later in life. It starts with prevention and part of that is limiting salt intake now."

More than one million Canadians currently have high blood pressure caused by excess sodium in their diets, Farmer noted.

Families with children under seven years of age were the least

confident in their knowledge; 35 per cent reported they didn't know that salt use was the major source of sodium in the Canadian diet. That should be a concern for parents, as the guardians of their children's diet, Farmer said.

"Children adapt to the flavour of the food they are given at a young age and they happen to have a high tolerance for salt. If they are exposed to salty foods early on, that's what their palates expect. Most Canadian children eat, on average, double the sodium they need."

For example, the adequate sodium intake for children aged one to three is 1,000 milligrams per day. Currently, they are consuming an average of 1,900 mg per day.

As it is, only 50 per cent of Canadians surveyed are taking action to reduce their sodium intake, which means a public education campaign needs to be launched, Farmer said. As well, people need to take salt off the dinner

table, rinse canned food before eating it, use condiments sparingly, eat more fresh fruit and vegetables and do more of their own cooking from scratch.

Farmer and her colleagues plan to continue their sodium research by exploring why people aren't studying food labels and, if they

are, whether they understand what they're reading.

"As nutrition researchers at the University of Alberta, we want to further our commitment to gauging consumer health issues and helping Canadians of all ages make better food choices." ■



Fewer than 15 per cent of young Canadians read food labels, and 50 per cent of those between the ages of 18 and 24 do not know that Canadians are consuming too much sodium.

Mining data to save lives

Geoff McMaster

In a world awash in information, it's hard to put a price on those meaningful connections that drive decision making.

In some cases, finding the needle of knowledge in a haystack of data can mean the difference between life and death. No one knows that better than Killam recipient and professor in the Department of Computing Science Osmar Zaiane, who applies his considerable knowledge of data mining to problems in health care.

Data mining, or knowledge discovery, involves sifting through vast stores of information—too large for human beings to manage without computer aid—to find connections and patterns that are of practical use. A simple example is the feature on Amazon.com that provides customers with a personalized list of titles they might be interested in buying, based on previous purchases.

But while helpful in marketing, data mining has far more critical applications. One of Zaiane's current projects with the Cross Cancer Institute, for example, is aimed at improving the interpretation of mammograms.

"There are thousands and thou-

sands of mammograms that doctors have to go through each year," he says. "They are difficult to analyze, and humans make mistakes." In fact the error rate for mammograms is estimated at about 15 per cent.

To reduce that, it's recommended that two doctors read every mammogram, says Zaiane, but with a shortage of radiologists,

only about 10 per cent of mammograms in Alberta are randomly selected for a second opinion. That's where data mining can make a big difference.

"Why select randomly?" asks Zaiane. "With machine-learning techniques, we build a model of what type of cancer is in a mammogram. So, based on examples radiologists have already annotated, we can label a mammogram as indicating cancer with some certainty. There is confidence attached to the prediction we make."

Zaiane says it's not about replacing the human expert in making a diagnosis, but rather narrowing down the pool selected for second reading with intelligent criteria. "When the machine can't make a prediction with any degree of certainty, then maybe those are the cases that should be sent for second reading [by a doctor]. Rather than selecting randomly,

we select, in a smart way, the cases that are difficult."

The prototype Zaiane and his team have designed is 82 per cent accurate so far, only three per cent short of the average human rate of success. And since the computer learns as it acquires more information, including feedback from doctors, it only gets better.

But the uses for data mining in health care don't stop there, says Zaiane. He's also working on a prostate cancer project, again with the Cross

Cancer Institute, comparing genes to determine how patients will react to treatment. This kind of genetic analysis can also be used to determine whether a patient will reject a transplanted organ.

Having been with the U of A for only 10 years and already regarded as an innovator in his field, Zaiane is described as a "a rising star" with a publication record "eclipsing many of our full professors," says Jonathan Schaeffer, former chair of computing science. Schaeffer adds that

Zaiane has also built an impressive multidisciplinary research program with a team of dedicated graduate students and recently took over leadership of the multi-million-dollar Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Machine Learning, which is focused on health and medical informatics.

"Osmar is a dynamic individual, with seemingly boundless energy," says Schaeffer. "He is an excellent researcher, teacher, a superb mentor of students, a committed teacher and a valued colleague." ■



Osmar Zaiane

2010–2011 Killam Annual Professorships

Applications are invited for the 2010–2011 Killam Annual Professorships. All regular, continuing, full-time academic faculty members who are not on leave during 2010–2011 are eligible to apply. Deans, department chairs and other senior university administrators with personnel responsibilities shall not normally be eligible for Killam Annual Professorships. Associate deans and associate department chairs are eligible, providing they do not have personnel responsibilities. Up to eight Killam Annual Professors will be selected by a subcommittee of the Killam Trusts Committee; no more than two professorships shall be awarded to staff members in any one faculty in any given year.

Each Killam Annual Professor shall be presented with a \$3,500 prize and a commemorative plaque. The duties of Killam Annual Professors shall not be changed from those that they regularly perform as academic staff members.

The primary criterion for selection shall be a record of outstanding scholarship and teaching over three or more years as evidenced by any or all of research publications, creative activities, presented papers, supervision of graduate students and courses taught. The secondary criterion shall be a record of substantial contributions to the community outside the university, above and beyond what is usually expected of a professor.

Awards are tenable for 12

months commencing July 1. The completed application must be received at the Office of the Vice-President (Research), 203 TELUS Centre, by 4:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 19. The awardees shall be announced by early May, and they will be formally recognized at the Killam Luncheon in the fall of 2010.

Applications and further details are available on the home page of the Vice-President (Research) at: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/vpresearch

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Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Terra Garneau, whose name was drawn as part of *Folio's* Nov. 27 "Are You a Winner?" contest, after she correctly identified the photo as the mural on the west wall of the Civil/Electrical Engineering (Physics) Building. For her effort, Garneau has won the second last pre-Christmas Butterdome butterdishes.

Your final crack at a Butterdome butterdish, and, thus, your final crack at saving the holiday season, is now. To win, simply identify where on campus the object of the picture is located. Email your correct answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, Dec. 18, and you will be entered into the draw.





Vaccine blitz a success

Michael Brown

Using an army of third- and fourth-year nursing students, the University Health Centre vaccinated more than 3,400 staff and students during its three-day H1N1 blitz that ran from Dec. 2 to 4.

"It went fantastic; the nursing students did an outstanding job," said Kevin Friese, assistant director of UHC. "It was a real example of interdisciplinary work in action. Between human resources, the Students' Union, the Faculty of Nursing and the University Health Centre all coming together, it went like clockwork."

"We have received very positive feedback from the community and strong support from the administration. The Faculty of Nursing's support has been instrumental in bringing about the success of these

clinics and their professionalism has been superb."

Based on vaccine usage, Friese estimates 1,100 shots were given out during the Wednesday clinic, 1,400 on Thursday and 900 on Friday. The steady numbers kept the 30-plus nursing stations busy, as the student nurses pushed close to the predicted daily maximum of 1,500 vaccinations.

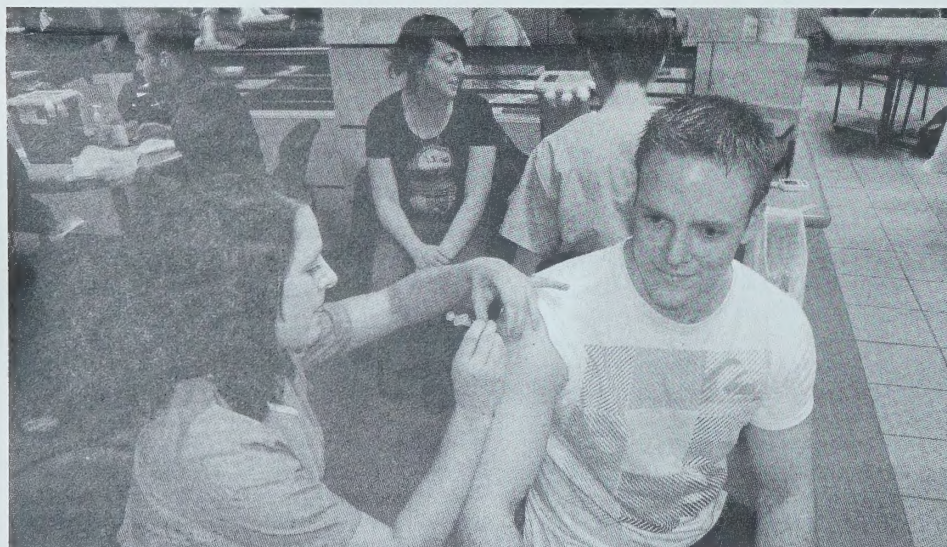
The first two days of the clinic were run by fourth-year nursing students, while shots on the final day were given out by third-year students, all of whom received credit for clinical hours to put towards their degree.

"The nursing students did a tremendous job," said Marlene Rhodenizer, nursing team lead for the H1N1 clinics. "We didn't have any concerns going in. Each day, the nurses were familiarized with the vaccine we were giving, the side effects to watch out for and then we went over the process of how to keep the clinic flowing."

"We didn't have any concerns going in and everything went smoothly."

Friese says the clinic achieved its mass-immunization objectives, although a shortage of Alberta Health immunization forms at the end of Friday meant directing some would-be vaccination seekers to an off-campus community health site. Alternately, those who missed receiving their vaccinations can make their way to the UHC during the week.

"Our plan is to continue to offer the vaccine through the University Health Centre for the time being, so anybody who wasn't able to make it to one of the clinics has been able to come back to the health centre and have the shot done here," said Friese. "We will be offering both the H1N1 and the seasonal flu shot until the end of February." ■



Greg Deutscher, fourth-year geophysics student, gets his H1N1 immunization from third-year nursing student Alicia Hofer during the Dec. 4 H1N1 clinic.

the open door India welcomes the U of A

Indira Samarasekera,
President and vice-chancellor

Every once in awhile I find myself in truly exceptional circumstances that highlight how the University of Alberta's increasing international stature is making significant inroads on the landscape of post-secondary education in Canada and abroad. Two weeks ago, I was invited to an official dinner in Hyderabad House in New Delhi, India, as a guest of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The dinner was held in honour of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen. Many Canadian members of parliament and special guests, including our high commissioner to India, Joseph Caron, were also present. It was a thrilling experience for me personally, but I know that, in a very important sense, the real guest was not me, but the University of Alberta.

Earlier that day, I participated in a lively round table on Canada-India post-secondary partnerships, an event that was organized as part of the Canadian delegation to India. The round table included 15 presidents and senior administrators of India's top universities, several high ranking Indian and Canadian government officials, including Prime Minister Harper, and from Canada's academic community, David Naylor, president of the University of Toronto, Sheila Embleton, president of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, which is based in Calgary and New Delhi, and me. Although Harper made no commitments, he listened with interest, took many notes, and indicated that post-secondary education would be an important part of Canada's larger strategy for broadening Canada-India relations.

The timing of this federal strategy could not be better for the U of A. As you know, we have identified India as one of our six priority regions for building international

partnerships, and our efforts have been noticed. Recent research and teaching agreements signed with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, as well as Tata Consultancy Services, are raising the U of A's profile within India and opening up several other opportunities for partnership. We are now in promising discussions with IIT, Kharagpur, and the University of Hyderabad.

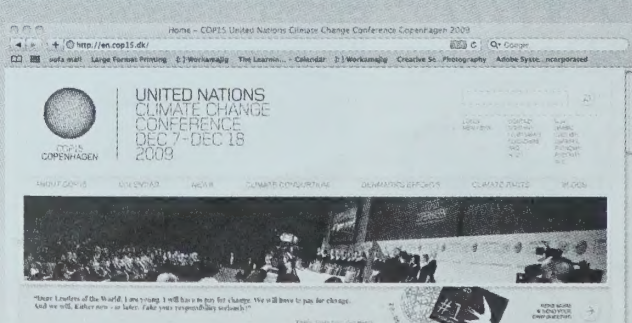
With these agreements, the U of A is taking international partnership onto a whole new level, moving from a one-to-one exchange model to a multi-level model that includes student exchanges, joint graduate degrees, collaborative research projects involving academic, government, and industry researchers, and the organization of international conferences and networks.

At the same time, the U of A is also playing a leadership role among other Canadian universities in the development of a national Canada-India post-secondary strategy. We aim to bring a proposal forward to the federal government in the spring that outlines the research areas where collaboration between Canada and India would have the greatest potential for advancement—for example, nanotechnology, energy, health sciences, cross-cultural studies, finance, etc.—the institutions best positioned to work together, and the amount of funding that would be needed to support initiatives.

Clearly, there is tremendous interest and support in India for broadening and strengthening relations with Canada, Canadian universities, and the U of A in particular. We are fortunate to have a very good friend in Prime Minister Singh, who we awarded an honorary degree in 1997. At the dinner, he made a special effort to ask me to send greetings to friends here in Edmonton. ■

surf city

Follow the latest news out of the United Nations Climate Change conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. Read the most up-to-date research on the consequences of global warming, and the efforts being put into slowing the progress of, and adaptation to, climate change. The website even has an area for blogs and discussions by some of the world's foremost experts on the topic. If



you want to get in on those discussions, write an e-postcard to the delegates and world leaders, who

will be gathered in Copenhagen until Dec. 18. Visit <http://en.cop15.dk> for more.

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Patient Testimonials:

"Nearly half of our staff has been in your clinic." — Staff member, U of A Department of Medicine

"You helped me lose 35 lbs. and my blood pressure reduced from 180/110 to 125/85. 20 years of neck and shoulder pain was gone." — Senior U of A staff member

"I had constant shoulder and back pain for 5 years since my car accident until I had 4 treatments from you. It's really amazing!" — a director at the U of A



Augustana Campus in Camrose held a memorial in honour of the victims of the École Polytechnique massacre 20 years ago.

U of A remembers Montreal massacre

Ileiren Poon

Fourteen women on the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus in Camrose carried new names Dec. 4, those of the victims of the École Polytechnique massacre 20 years ago. Each of the women, dressed in black, wore placards with the names of one of the 14 women killed.

"There's something very real about asking these women to feel the burden of these boards on them, the burden of those identities," said Nancy Goebel, Augustana's head librarian and human rights advisor. "It creates this individual sense of burden we each have to carry to share the tragedy."

"We list their names, what they were studying or where they worked and how old they were," said Goebel. "We encourage these women to speak about the significance of the event, about the significance of the name they're carrying. These were just regular people showing up to go to class and they were absolutely targeted because of their gender."

Angela Chappell, a residence co-ordinator at Augustana, wore the name of Nathalie Croteau.

"She was 23 years old, and a second-year mechanical engineering student," said Chappell. "She was younger than I am now. I've done this in past years, but it had a different effect on me this year, thinking that she was younger."

On Dec. 4, students, staff and faculty on U of A campuses reflected in advance of the 20th anniversary of the massacre that haunts post-secondary students. In Camrose, participants held an outdoor memorial where they lit

"These were just regular people showing up to go to class and they were absolutely targeted because of their gender."

Nancy Goebel

candles and recited the names of the massacre's victims. At the main campus in Edmonton, the students' union created a silent memorial display lasting from Friday to Sunday on SUBstage in the Students' Union Building, with a white rose to symbolize each of the murder victims. A slideshow presentation was projected onto the SUBstage screen throughout the day on Friday to inform students, staff and visitors about the date's significance, inviting them to reflect. Bouquets of 14 white roses were also set up at reception areas and, in the Faculty of Engineering, at a plaque in the Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex.

There are two memorial sites on campus: a memorial stone garden situated just west of the south entrance to the Administration Building, and the Engineering Students' Society has placed a "14 Not Forgotten" memorial plaque in the common room of the Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex. White roses are placed at the plaque every Dec. 6.

"My hope is that by reminding students to personally reflect on the 14 murdered women, we will raise the public consciousness against all forms of violence against women that persist to this day," said Beverly Eastham, Students' Union vice-president (external).

The 20th anniversary of the tragedy coincided with Canada's National Day of Remembrance

and Action on Violence Against Women.

"I want all students to be aware of what happened 20 years ago, to question why it happened, and to be driven to take action to prevent such tragic violence against women from ever happening again," said Leah Trueblood, Students' Union vice-president (academic). ■

On Dec. 6, 1989, a 25-year-old man armed with a semi-automatic rifle and a hunting knife entered the École Polytechnique in Montreal and shot 28 people. He began his attack by entering a classroom at the university, where he separated the male and female students. After claiming that he was "fighting feminism," he shot all nine women in the room, killing six. He then moved through corridors, the cafeteria and another classroom, targeting women to shoot. He killed 14 women and injured four men and 10 women in less than 20 minutes before turning the gun on himself.

Those killed were: Genevieve Bergeron, Hélène Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Barbara Daigneault, Anne-Marie Edward, Maud Haviernick, Maryse Laganière, Maryse Leclair, Anne-Marie Lemay, Sonia Pelletier, Michèle Richard, Annie St-Arneault, Annie Turcotte and Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz.

Charitable giving made easier online

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta has always given its appreciation to its supporters. Now it's giving something a little more tangible back to its donors: time.

Development Services went live on Dec. 8 with a user-friendly donor site for each faculty's homepage that offers more donation options while streamlining the information-gathering process, the conclusion of which results in an instant electronic charitable receipt.

"What we had previously was one site on the university's homepage with seven pages of giving options," said Jeff Wright, associate director of Development Services. "The new concept involves integration with all faculty initiatives."

"Every faculty has relationships with its alumni and donors. Now each of them has its own online giving solution."

As an example, visitors to the School of Business homepage will be able to click on the "Make a Gift" button that redirects to an online gift page. There, donors are met with an easy-to-navigate information collection process that outlines the faculty's funding priorities and allows donors and alumni to seamlessly make a gift towards whatever priority that they see

fit. Wright says the best part is, visitors can see the whole site.

"The previous site required a user to go through four steps, then receive a receipt in the mail two weeks later. This was inefficient," he said. "The new system will ensure more donors complete the form, and complete it faster."

Ultimately, Wright says each faculty is left with the option to design its own site with the common denominator being efficiency.

"We wanted to make an upgrade on customer service, security and simplicity," said Wright. "Providing the electronic receipt instantly is a twofold advantage in that we save a lot of money on postage and we are providing a new level of customer service by putting the receipt right in their hand immediately."

And while the same ironclad security is brought forward from the old system, Wright says the speed and efficiency of this new online giving tool will give donors even more peace of mind. Wright would know; he's pulled out his own credit card to test many of the sites.

"I feel more confident with the system if we are testing with real gifts," he said. "We've witnessed no downtime on this, because this is so simple. It's one page; you fill it out and click send," said Wright. "Everybody is really excited about the online receipt. While the security of the previous site was airtight, this one seems more secure because it is so quick and easy." ■

Development Services is currently in the midst of sending a holiday greeting card to all U of A alumni and past supporters that will encourage people to visit the new online giving page, in addition to the happy holiday giving site that will offer an e-card service.

"If we have their address or email address, we're sending a card," said Wright.

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PhD student attends Copenhagen climate summit

Geoff McMaster

Geert De Cock is late for the interview.

He has a lot on his plate on this morning, taking care of his two-year-old boy while preparing to board a transatlantic flight later in the afternoon. Nonetheless, the doctoral student in political science takes an hour to rant at length on his favorite topic: energy and climate change.

The time is right to be writing a thesis on the politics of mitigating global warming. After giving a paper in Berlin on the influence of the European Union on China's carbon reduction policy, De Cock will join the Sierra Club delegation at the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

"I've never been to an international, multinational negotiation before, so I think it will help the research," he says. "I'm not sure what we can accomplish, but if we can at least name and shame, that's our strategy."

De Cock says his delegation will meet with Alberta's environment minister, Rob Renner, and hopefully with federal environment minister, Jim Prentice, reporting back from the summit in a "non-

mainstream" blog. De Cock says he's convinced Canada will stand out at the meeting as a pariah for its inaction on climate change.

"We'll do everything in our power to get the message out that



Geert De Cock

Prentice and his consorts are really out of step [with the international consensus]," he says.

Even China has unveiled a plan for reducing the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions, and India signaled last week that it

will soon follow suit.

De Cock admits he is a relatively recent convert to the environmental cause. A native of Belgium, he has worked as a parliamentary assistant in his home country and for a non-governmental agency on social justice issues. Concern for the environment was something he simply took for granted.

That was until he decided to continue his studies at the U of A and was struck by how far behind the global curve the province was on environmental policy. While the European Union's leadership may be far from inspiring, he says, it is "at least not moving in the wrong direction. The rhetoric is there, if not always the policy."

In some cases, however, European practice puts North America and

Australia to shame, he says. On one recent weekend, for example, Spain met 50 per cent of its energy demand through wind power. And in Germany solar panels are so popular due to a feed-in tariff for homeowners that they're "exceeding all expectations," equaling the equivalent of three coal-fired power plants.

"There's a huge investment in wind and solar power in Germany, tidal power in Portugal, and wind and solar power in Spain and the Scandinavian countries. It is doable, and the technologies are out there."

Canada, on the other hand, has been much criticized for failing to come up with any viable plan, and in an effort to contain emissions from oilsands production, Alberta has confined its strategy to a \$2 billion investment in carbon capture and storage, a largely unproven technology.

All of this has De Cock scratching his head. As his frustration mounts, he says, he worries he might come across as a crazy, tree-hugging radical when nothing could be further from the truth. As he sees it, common sense dictates that Canada commit to a variety of approaches rather than sticking its head in the sand.

"Whether it's Japan, China or Europe, people are catching on, and Canada is completely oblivious to this." ■

Report urges new ownership to oil and gas

Geoff McMaster

A report released by the Faculty of Arts' Parkland Institute calls for public ownership of Canada's oil and gas industry.

Released to coincide with the opening of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, which runs Dec. 7-18, and produced with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, the discussion paper argues that the oil and gas industry is "programmed to maximize share value," even if it means ignoring public concern over the industry's social and environmental damage.

"A catastrophe in the making, human-induced climate change is projected to cost trillions of dollars in economic harm, and mass extinctions within a generation. Yet an industry of climate change deniers exists, with funding from the energy sector, strategic assistance from public relations firms and close ties to current governments," write authors David Thompson, an independent public-policy consultant and a Parkland Institute research associate, and Keith Newman, director of research for the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada.

According to corporate law, directors of corporations can be sued if they fail to maximize value for shareholders, say the writers. Even when attempts are made to account for the public interest in cost-benefit analyses, they say, "the profit imperative simply outweighs considerations of social, economic and environmental harm."

The authors suggest that at least partial public ownership of the industry would ensure public interests are protected. They point out that most

of the world's oil reserves, about 90 per cent, are controlled by publically owned companies, and that even in Alberta's oil patch, many foreign companies are publically owned.

A public-interest company could be structured to meet customer demand without striving to boost consumption or externalizing costs in the form of pollution, and "it would no longer be engaged in lobbying, litigation, and public relations campaigns to prevent and undermine effective conservation and emissions-reduction efforts."

Thompson and Newton argue that future profits—amounting to far more than governments now draw through taxation and royalties—would finance buying out the industry, and they estimate the up-front cost at about \$330 billion, based on a mid-November 2009 market value. And while it's a prospect many politicians shy away from, the authors say Canadian governments do have the legal authority to take over corporations for the public good, and have in fact owned energy companies—such as the Alberta Energy Company and Petro-Canada—in the past.

"Public ownership in general has become an ideological bogeyman for political leaders. However, with the recent degree of public involvement in the financial and automotive sector bailouts, this ideology no longer determines practice."

However, Thompson and Newton also stress that full-fledged public ownership of the oil and gas sector is not the only way to protect the public interest. Other enterprises, such as those run by charities, non-profit organizations or co-operatives, are common around the world and demonstrate that



A Parkland Institute report suggests that at least partial public ownership of Canada's energy sector would ensure public interests are protected.

a "public energy corporation can be created with public, private, or mixed ownership."

"The new mandate of the public-interest industry would include working for improvements in job-rich, value-added processing, energy conservation, energy security, renewable energy development, improved employment conditions and environmental protection."

"With oil prices at around one-half their previous levels, as Stephen Harper famously said, this could be a 'buying opportunity.'"

The Parkland Institute is a non-partisan Alberta research network situated within the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta. To download the entire paper, called "Private Gain or Public Interest: Reforming Canada's Oil and Gas Industry," visit the institute's website. ■

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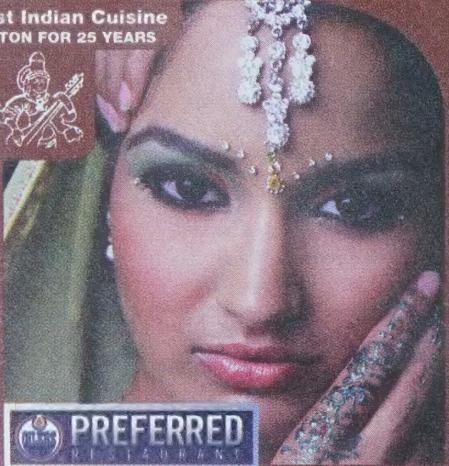
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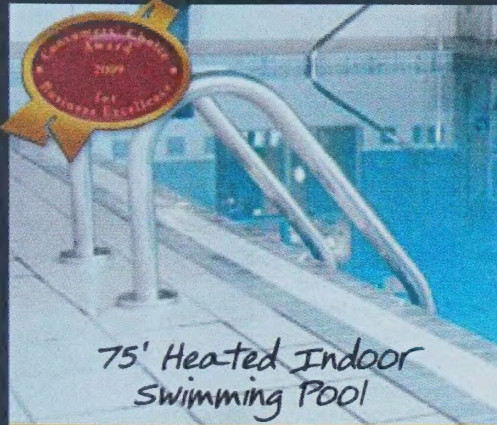
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Shearing for a good cause

Richard Cairney

Dozens of students shaved their heads and raised approximately \$30,000 for the Alberta Cancer Foundation on Nov. 27 as part of the sixth annual Engineering Head Shave.

Organized by the Engineering Students Society, the Head Shave began in 2003 when then-engineering students Gary and Graham Wicentowich's father, Ron, was diagnosed with cancer. A group of friends started the head-shaving event and the fundraiser has been going strong ever since, raising more than \$150,000 to date.

"We've had a really good response this year," said Amanda Schneck, a third-year materials engineering student who volunteered to co-ordinate this year's Head Shave.

Students had different reasons for participating in the event.

"I have all this hair and if I can help someone who's going through cancer treatments, that's great," said Nicole Stodola, a second-year computer engineering student who was donating her locks to be made into a wig.

Another student, Andy Wong, had more personal reasons to take part.

"My dad is a cancer survivor and my grandfather is a cancer survivor, and I have a colleague at work who is a cancer survivor," he said. "I figure this is a good way of raising awareness and helping people out."



Engineering's Head Shave on Nov. 27. raised \$30,000.

Materials engineering professor John Nychka took part this year because he has lost family members to cancer.

"Doing something like this lets me raise more money than I could give individually," said Nychka who, along with many other participants, had dyed his hair hot pink a week before the Head Shave.

As a professor, Nychka felt he could also influence students to take part or donate as well. And as a researcher, he knows engineers can apply their problem-solving skills and expertise to medical challenges like cancer.

That's something that Trenea Fenniak, communications assistant for the Department of Chemical

and Materials Engineering, likes to hear. A cancer survivor, Fenniak addressed students before the clipping began.

"There is work being done here in biomedical engineering that is going to lead to amazing developments in early detection and treatment," she said.

"A day like today is about coming together and trying to find answers," Fenniak added. "Today you are giving someone another day, a better day, another day with their mother, or their daughter. I am here today and I love being a mom, even if my daughter drives me crazy. I am grateful for the money that is being raised here today." ■

staff spotlight

Staffer's home is economics

Michael Brown

Although Charlene Hill isn't a researcher in the Department of Economics where she works, the long-time administration assistant has made a science out of versatility.

"I've been in economics since 1980," said Hill. "I think versatility has stood me in good stead. In all these years, I think I have done just about every administration job here."

From clerk to coursework assistant for professors to grad program administrator to her current position as the department chair's assistant, Hill has become as much a part of the economics department as famed economists Adam Smith or John Maynard Keynes. For that, Hill was recently awarded a University of Alberta 2009 Support Staff Recognition Award.

"This is a pretty great place to work," said Hill. "There are a lot of good people who work here, a lot of great personalities. It is a respectful environment with people who are fun to be around. It is very collaborative and we all work well together."

For her part, Hill says she tries to bring lots of positivity to the department and takes ownership for the task at hand.

"I try to do what's necessary to get answers for people so they're not struggling and searching," said Hill. "I try to be as supportive as possible, and the department really fosters that."



Charlene Hill was the recipient of a 2009 Support Staff Recognition Award.

Hill enjoys gardening in the summer, visiting friends, volunteering with her church and community and traveling. "I took my mom to Europe last year, and we did a week on a Mediterranean cruise," she said. "We enjoyed it so much we are going back to Italy again this year."

She also says she is a creature of habit, and one of those habits is the Department of Economics.

"The work doesn't need to be predictable but I like the environment to be predictable," she said. "It's home for me; I wouldn't leave it easily." ■

Manipulating the business gene

Gloria Jensen

Phil Halloran knows firsthand that there's no easy way to get technology from the lab to market. Luckily, he hasn't faced that challenge alone.

Halloran, director of the Alberta Transplant Applied Genomics Centre in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and co-founder of Transcriptome Science Inc., has partnered with TEC Edmonton to grow the spinoff company into a viable business.

Halloran says that he has always had thoughts of commercialization.

"As a researcher, I look for ways to change the conventional system, to improve it, and commercialization is part of that," Halloran said.

"We owe it to the taxpayer to give back somehow."

His company is developing a microarray-based chip that can be used to identify diseases that cause organ dysfunction measuring how disturbed organ tissue is, what the cause of the disturbance is and whether the organ is at risk for progressive failure. This technology is significant because current methods of assessing organ biopsies by microscopic assessment are inaccurate, which can lead to inappropriate treatment.

As recognition and interest grew for Halloran's research in technology, he looked for ways to bring his discoveries to market.

"We created a company, with the help of TEC Edmonton, to be

the interface for our commercial relationships," Halloran said.

With solid commercial potential, TEC Edmonton executive-in-residence, Randy Yatscoff, a former academic and biotech CEO, used his veteran business expertise to get Halloran's company off the ground.

"Working with Phil, we implemented an innovative funding model for the university environment that put TSI in a position to capitalize on funding sources," Yatscoff said.

Because Halloran doesn't have the time or the business expertise to manage the company alone, Dean Zaragoza, a TEC Edmonton market analyst, took on an additional role as its business manager.

"By partnering with TEC Edmonton, the company is moving forward," Zaragoza said. "TEC connects TSI with a variety of commercial funding opportunities as well as with people with the expertise to help in the further development and validation of the technology." ■

TEC Edmonton

In the next few months, Folio will examine one of the cornerstones of the university's Dare to Discover vision, connecting communities, by examining the role TEC Edmonton plays in advancing mutual goals by fostering partnerships with business and industry.



Dean Zaragoza, TEC Edmonton market analyst, Phil Halloran, director of the Alberta Transplant Applied Genomics Centre, and Randy Yatscoff, TEC Edmonton executive-in-residence, have given flight to Transcriptome Science Inc.

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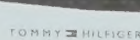
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Aircraft art piece honours Second World War flyers

Bev Betkowski

For Augustana Campus art professor Keith Harder, the world of flying has been an enduring source of inspiration. Aircraft, clouds and sky, even birds and their feathers, have captured his imagination for 20 years, to the point where he earned a pilot's licence and for a while took to the air himself.

Now, his attraction to the open sky has allowed a dream project to take wing, in the heart of a farm field in southern Alberta.

Anyone who happens to be flying near the southern Alberta hamlet of Cayley will likely do a double take on what they see, because it's hard to miss.

Emblazoned in a pasture, and carved from white gravel, grass and simple prairie dirt, is a large compass rose. Each of its 12 points is studded with the decayed wrecks of Anson airplanes, which were used to train pilots of the British Commonwealth during the Second World War. Completing the installation are 12 silhouettes of planes in flight.

All of it makes for a compelling image as arresting as any crop circle. The massive work of art was all Harder's doing, and it started four

years ago, when he heard about a bone yard of old aircraft belonging to the Nanton Lancaster Museum. The relics had been used in training exercises 60 years before.

After the war, the planes were decommissioned, denuded of their wings, and sold as scrap to local farmers. Eventually many of the Anson relics made their way to that museum, where they were used for spare parts in restorations of more fortunate aircraft. What couldn't be used sat in a field where Harder eventually spent many quiet hours sketching and photographing them for later paintings.

When he found out that the site had to be cleaned up and the wrecks destroyed, he was compelled to do something about it.

"I felt it would be a tragedy, because regardless of their decay, and maybe because of that, they were powerfully attached to stories that have broad implications for reflecting on the human condition."

With the help of a University of Alberta grant, Harder hired a contractor to haul the aircraft skeletons to a piece of pasture donated by a landowner for the cause. Twenty loads of gravel were also trucked in, and with family, friends and other volunteer help, Harder took six months to create the compass and

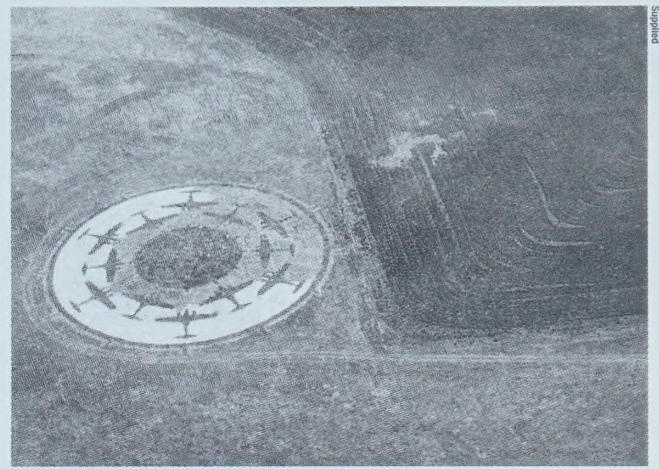
place the planes.

The project, titled *Gravitas* for both its solemn feel and for its allusion to gravity, salutes more than the roles these lumbering aircraft played during their heyday. "The Anson artifacts are emblematic of certain pieces of the past that are forgotten, repressed or seen as not useful. However, that past is still with us and deserves an accounting."

Gravity is about weight, Harder added, and this project is about the weight of time. The 12 compass points also correspond to the hours of a clock. "*Gravitas* is a palpable manifestation of the ravages of time on matter and memory, but the planes are also a reminder that gravity has been, and can again be, overcome. There is a certain liberty in that image of transcendence, so this art work is also about the possibility of overcoming gravity, transcending adversity and redeeming time."

While the planes are a touchstone of a particular era, Harder hopes they can be a portal for "a broader range of times and experiences. This project is not just about remembering. The compass reminds us to be about finding a better way forward."

Harder, who is chair of fine arts at the U of A's Augustana Campus, also hopes the installation will show



It took Keith Harder six months to create this compass and airplane artwork.

his students how art can be framed in non-traditional ways. "It shows what can be done. As university teachers, we are their mentors and they have to see us working and exhibiting, to see that we are more than just talking heads."

Leaving his work in the middle of a field is a change for Harder, who is more used to hanging his paintings and drawings inside four square gallery walls, but, in this case, it was an opportunity to take a different path, one worth pursuing. "I wanted to keep it there for the community. These artifacts have a

story to tell, and they were part of the Nanton region for many years."

The artwork is a natural fit for the community, dovetailing in spirit with the town's aircraft museum, said curator Bob Evans. It also adds a valuable economic benefit, he said.

"Nanton is essentially a tourist town, so the idea of using the derelict Ansons in creating another area attraction was appealing as an alternative to our eventually having to scrap them. Our volunteers also helped in several ways to build the site, so we feel an investment in it." ■

Good to a Fault good enough for national competition

Geoff McMaster

A novel by Augustana Campus creative writing instructor Marina Endicott has been selected for the CBC's Canada Reads 2010 competition.

Endicott's *Good to a Fault* was one of five novels selected Dec. 1 by a group of panelists who will each defend the book of their choice next March on CBC Radio's *Q*, hosted by Jian Ghomeshi. *Good to a Fault*—awarded the regional 2009 Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best Book Award for 2009 and shortlisted for the Giller Prize in 2008—was selected by Vancouver broadcaster Simi Sara.

"Given what's happened to us in the last couple of years with the economy and our social lives, a lot of people are asking themselves, 'Why do I do what I do, why do I

behave the way I behave?' and are looking for more meaning in their lives," said Sara in her opening defense of the book.

"I think when they read this book and hear this woman Clara's story about why she continually tries to be so good, good to a fault, and it doesn't get her anywhere in her life, people will find more meaning in discovering what it means to be charitable, what it means to be generous and sometimes, perhaps, too good."

Reached on the phone in Toronto, where she attended the unveiling of the Canada Reads list at CBC headquarters, Endicott said the news was "remarkably great."

"I was staggered in the first place, but then when I found out what the other books were today, it was a huge surprise, and a real honour to be on the list with them."

The other contenders in the competition are *The Jade Peony* by Wayson Choy, defended by Samantha Nutt, founder of War Child Canada; *Nikolski* by Nicolas Dickner, defended by Quebec literary and cultural critic Michel Vézina; *Fall on Your Knees* by Ann-Marie MacDonald, defended by athlete and Olympian Perdita Felicien and *Generation X* by Douglas Coupland, defended by Edmonton poet laureate Rollie Pemberton, also known as rapper Cadence Weapon.

The merits of each book will be debated during the second week of March. Books are "voted off" one by one until one remains. The winner will be announced on March 12.

Good to a Fault is the story of Clara Purdy, described by Endicott in an interview with *ExpressNews* earlier this year as a "lonely, reserved woman who feels that she's useless in

the world." One day she rams her car into vehicle carrying a family of five. No one is hurt, but the car is totaled, and so, feeling guilty, Purdy decides to take the family into her home.

"She feels morally in some huge way at fault, not only for the accident, but also for the fact that she's prosperous and they're not; she's got a settled life and they don't," said Endicott. "She decides to give goodness a try to do what she knows is right, against the trend of habit and comfort."

After the Commonwealth Prize and Giller nomination garnered her novel national and international attention, Endicott confessed to being surprised that "a very private, quiet kind of book" would be so widely and enthusiastically received.

"The good thing about prize nominations and wins is that it gives your writing legitimacy in the



Marina Endicott

world's eyes, and you don't have to defend your work to yourself."

The winner of Canada Reads 2009 was Lawrence Hill's *Book of Negroes*. Visit the Canada Reads website for updates, blogs and profiles. ■

Ted Harrison returns in *Painting Paradise*

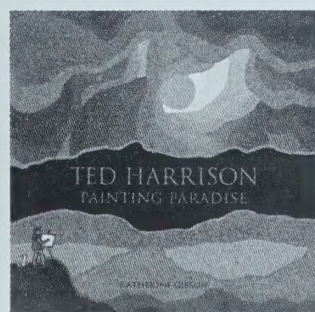
Dawn Ford

A is for Alex who lives in the Arctic and wears an anorak. M is for Mary who runs by a moose munching in the muskeg.

And if you ask his biographer, M is also for the magic of University of Alberta education alumnus Ted Harrison.

"Ted Harrison's impact in Canada and around the world is colourful and deep," said Katherine Gibson, also a U of A education alumna, who has spent the past four years researching Harrison's life, including traveling to his birth town in County Durham, England, and retracing his path in the Yukon.

"As a teacher, he did more than work in the classroom. He changed



lives," she said.

Both Gibson and Harrison were in Edmonton Dec. 9 to share the launch of the new biography *Ted Harrison: Painting Paradise* and to celebrate his recent gift of 26 original paintings to the children of Alberta. An exhibition, *A Northern Alphabet*,

at the Royal Alberta Museum commemorates the artist's first exhibition in Edmonton 40 years ago.

Harrison donated these paintings to the U of A Art Collection in the name of the children of Alberta, for whom the paintings and the alphabet book were created. First inspired while Harrison was teaching Cree and Chipewyan children in Alberta's North during the '60s, *A Northern Alphabet* includes letters accompanied by vivid paintings depicting animals, objects or scenes native to that area.

"At that time, the learning materials had little relevance for children in the northern Alberta community of Wabasca," said Gibson, who weaves anecdotes from Harrison throughout the biography.

"The world of May Hill Arbuthnot's *Dick and Jane* is heavy going," says Harrison in the book. "Spot cannot even haul a sled."

"Ted adapted *Dick and Jane* to reflect the life experiences of his students, and in doing so, took an auspicious step toward a destiny he could not have predicted," said Gibson, who hails Harrison for having a special gift of reaching out to those seemingly unreachable.

"What I've learned most through writing Ted's biography is that what we do as teachers isn't just about the classroom. It's about inspiring lives," said Gibson.

"The world he paints does not reflect life's bumps and bruises, but portrays optimism, purity and the elemental values of goodness and

compassion. I believe this is why Ted Harrison was given to us. He is the gift. He is the magic."

Harrison was the first Canadian to exhibit at the prestigious International Children's Book Exhibition in Bologna, Italy, in 1978. He holds the Order of Canada, the Order of British Columbia and four honorary doctorates.

Friends and fans of Ted Harrison are invited to the Royal Alberta Museum to view *A Northern Alphabet*, an exhibition of 26 works he created for his children's book of the same name. The exhibit, open through to Feb. 16, is created through collaboration with the University of Alberta's Faculty of Education and the University of Alberta Museums. ■

What's so funny about global warming?

Michael Davies-Venn

Ian Leung has wanted to do something about global warming for almost two decades.

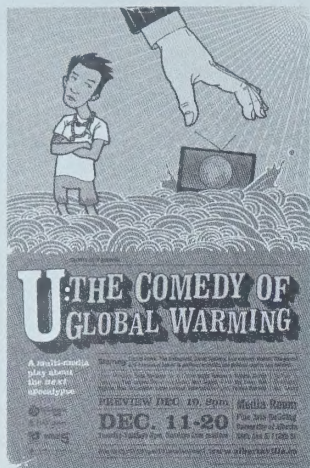
Ever since he switched careers in 1991 from science advisor to the Ontario Ministry of Environment to pursue a career as an actor, the environment—and how to communicate its importance to the public—has been on his mind.

"I felt bad about the fact that there was this important issue, and I left the ministry to pursue my dreams. I said to myself [that] one day I would write a play about the environment."

The play, *U: The Comedy of Global Warming*, opened in the U of A's Fine Arts Building media room Dec. 10 and makes true Leung's 18-year-old promise. For Albertans itching to know what will happen to the province once the effects of global warming intensify, they may find some answers in Leung's deceptively titled multimedia play, because, he says, there's nothing funny about global warming.

The idea that hundreds of millions of poor people in developing countries could, for example, lose their homes due to ocean levels rising and be unable to relocate, is not a funny idea, he says. However, he adds, the positions of governments on the issue merit satire.

"Both the federal and provincial



governments are taking positions that are so absurdly counterproductive that the idea of taking a satirical approach to their policies seemed more logical and to my aesthetic taste," Leung said. "The way the Canadian and Alberta governments are behaving internationally on this issue seems to be a form of denial."

Leung says the play has several subplots, including that of a young, attractive climate refugee from Tuvalu, who had a questionable love affair with Albert A. Oil, the CEO of a fictional Alberta oil and gas company who brought the Tuvaluan to Edmonton to work as his houseboy. Another subplot involves an actor who convinces his audience that they are, in fact, watching a live tap-

ing of a television show called *Hot Stove Planet* and video interviews with federal, local and provincial politicians, along with scientists and environmental activists.

At the centre of all this is a question as to whether it is OK to continue profiting from oil and gas exploration when doing so causes environmental problems elsewhere in the world. That's a moral question, and one that some will object to being asked, because they may feel it's a simplification of the issues on global warming, Leung says. But, he says, the arrival of the climate-change refugee from Tuvalu illustrates the complex consequences of global warming.

"One of the central issues of this play is that things will happen here [in Alberta], but things will also happen in other parts of the world that will affect us here, such as the potential for people around the world to lose their homes as a result of global warming—where are they going to go?" Leung asks. "Canada is a place that would likely be viewed as a refuge for climate refugees."

U: The Comedy of Global Warming, at the U of A's Fine Arts Building media room, runs from Dec. 10–20 at 8 p.m. with a matinee on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$20, \$15 for students and seniors. ■

Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry launches new lecture series

Quinn Phillips

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry introduced a centuries-old British academic tradition to the University of Alberta campus on Nov. 30 with the introduction of the Inaugural Professorial Lecture.

The series attracted hundreds who turned out to hear two newly appointed professors in the faculty make their public debut with presentations that encapsulate their areas of focus.

Philip Baker, dean of the faculty, introduced the two bright minds to a full house at the Allard Family Theatre in the Katz Group Centre for Pharmacy and Health Research: Kathryn Todd, professor in the Department of Psychiatry, and pediatrics professor Lisa Hornberger. These new professors also donned gowns and PhD hoods, which are typically only seen at convocation.

"They're introducing us to themselves and the research that they're doing," Baker told the audience. "We can learn from them and explore the excitement that they find in their respective subjects."

Todd presented her work not only in front of colleagues, but also her mother and uncle, which as especially significant, as her mother had never seen her speak publicly before.

"When my mother saw me speak

at my inaugural lecture she criticized me for six months afterwards," joked Baker. "So I hope you have a less harsh critic."

Neurons are the most commonly known brain cells, and Todd studies glial cells, which have been dubbed "the other cells of the brain."

Her research group is investigating a type of glial cell called microglia, which have been linked to neuron death after brain injury. Todd's group has shown that blocking the function of microglia in an animal model has reduced the number of brain cells that die after an injury.

Hornberger is passionate about her work in the development of fetal cardiac intervention. She is working towards early detection of structural damage of the heart, as well as treatments while babies are still in the womb.

The next professorial lectures are scheduled for Jan. 18. Professor Jason Dyck will speak about his innovative research in heart disease. Michele Barry, professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, will discuss her ongoing research into viruses, including poxvirus.

"I hope the Inaugural Professorial Lectures will play an important role in building the culture of collegiality in the faculty, and share leading medical research and thinking within our community and beyond," said Baker. ■

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NOTICES

STUDIO 3. The newest, smallest and smartest gallery in the Arts District of downtown Edmonton (10308 – 100 St., half a block south of the CN Tower, irregular hours) invites readers to drop in to view its art, originals only in 2- or 3-D, or for holiday gifting. Phone Marc: 780-429-3498; Louie: 780-424-6746. Miniature houses and furniture, also tribal masks.

production scientists during the first 10 years of their professional career.

Erasmus Okine, chair of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, has received the Fellowship Award from the Canadian Society of Animal Science based on his contribution to the animal industries of Canada in teaching, research and technology transfer over the past 20 years.

laurels

U of A President **Indira Samarasekera** made the 2009 Women's Executive Network list of Canada's most powerful 100 women for the fourth consecutive time.

Masahito Oba, professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, has received the Cargill Animal Nutrition Young Scientist Award from the American Dairy Science Association, created to recognize outstanding research by young dairy

Program encourages disabled to turn life into art

Carmen Leibel

Lindsay Eales is proud to be the artistic director for iDANCE Edmonton, a program that's aimed at increasing accessibility for dancers with disabilities.

The dancers have learned that disability has little to do with physical or mental abilities. As a group they honour each others' personal stories and express their inner selves through movement.

"We spend time validating each other's life experiences, learning about coping and being grateful for the small things in life that many people take for granted," said Eales

Julie Heffel, who has been dancing with the group for six months, says once she tried it she was hooked.

"We all have different stories. As soon as we get through the doorway we are all just people. Whatever we're facing that day is left behind," said Heffel.

The program is delivered by the University of Alberta's Steadward

Centre for Personal & Physical Achievement. Donna Goodwin, executive director for the centre, says the program is created by the dancers for the dancers.

"The leadership for iDANCE comes from within the group. Each dancer brings a life story that adds to the creative fabric of their work."

The iDANCE Edmonton group was awarded last month with a human rights award for excellence, in the category of new/emerging organization from the City of Edmonton. Eales says this award is a great honour.

"People are hearing the voice that we're bringing to our community about human rights and disability." ■

“As soon as we get through the doorway we are all just people.”

Julie Heffel

Girls' club builds skills and confidence

Richard Cairney

When 27 members of an all-girls engineering and mentorship club attended their final class Nov. 28, their parents were giving the program top marks.

"There wasn't anything like this when I was growing up," said Anne Menard. "My husband and I think the idea of a girls-oriented science club is wonderful. It's great to expose them to this at such an early age. And to have the instructors all being female as well is empowering for the girls."

"Boys tend to get rowdy and rambunctious, and the girls are more focused on the task at hand, so this really lets them get involved," said David Menard.

The couple's nine-year-old daughter Sienna was a member of the Girls, Engineering, Mentorship Club this fall. The girls, in Grades 3 to 8, learned about different types of engineering, toured the Faculty of Engineering's labs and rolled up their sleeves to tackle interesting challenges.

"I really liked it," said Sienna, cit-

ing specific experiments like making foaming "elephant toothpaste" in a beaker and building a home-made gumball machine, complete with gears cut from cardboard.

"I liked doing the experiments," said Suekiana Choucair, a Grade 7 student who teamed up with her mother Tina and the Menard to design and build a catapult from Popsicle sticks.

One experiment Choucair particularly enjoyed during the eight-week program was creating a hydraulic robotic arm using tubing and syringes to control its movements.

She said it's important for girls to have learning experiences like this without boys.

Her mother, Tina, said the GEM Club impressed her.

"I like the idea of exposing her to all of the different types of engineering," she said. "She learned about civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering. And with all girls as instructors, this is something she can see herself doing in the future."

All 13 of the instructors in GEM are female engineering students

who volunteered their Saturday afternoons to work with the girls. Mechanical-engineering graduate student Jill Redman, who came to the U of A after earning her undergraduate degree at the University of Waterloo, can't say enough good things about the program.

"This is a great program; I've never heard of a program like it before," she said. "In an all-girl situation they feel more comfortable taking risks and trying new things. They're able to do more," said Redman. "And that way, they gain more confidence."

The older GEM girls also served as mentors and leaders themselves, helping a group of Brownies participate in a "science Olympics" event to help them earn their STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) badges.

"We just tried to make things fun and interesting for them," said Redman. "And we had a lot of fun too."

The next GEM Club session begins Jan. 23 with registration opening Jan. 5. For more information visit the GEM Club website. ■

talks & events

Folio Talks and Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca. Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

Until Dec. 22

Forest Society Christmas Tree Sale. The Forest Society will be selling Christmas trees, in the Corbett Hall lot. Ten per cent of the proceeds donated to the campus United Way Campaign. Weekday shifts will be from 3-9 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Corbett Fields

Until Feb. 16

Ted Harrison's A Northern Alphabet at the Royal Alberta Museum. The University of Alberta, the Faculty of Education, and Museums and Collections invite you to visit the Royal Alberta Museum to view the original 26 Ted Harrison paintings that illustrate the artist's famed book, *A Northern Alphabet*. Each painting represents a letter of the alphabet through images of the landscapes, people, flora and fauna of the Canadian North. Viewing these paintings is a wonderful opportunity to engage students in the beauty of northern life, and will also support the Grade 5 social studies curriculum, provide content for an inspiring language arts assignment and motivate students for a creative art lesson. Take a field trip to the RAM and enjoy this special exhibition, along with the museum's many other educational exhibits. Please contact the RAM booking office to book a visit.

Dec. 11

Classic Fare Festive Luncheon. Classic Fare Catering is hosting their annual Festive Luncheon. Bring your colleagues for a traditional holiday buffet. Tickets are \$15.95 each. Choose from December 11, 16 or 18. Noon-1:30 p.m. Maple Leaf Room Lister Centre.

Use of Digital Media as a Means of Promoting Reflection on Ethical Issues in the First Year Medicine Patient Centred Care Course. Health Ethics Seminar Series Noon-12:45 p.m. Room 2-07 Heritage Medical Research Centre.

Faculty Seminar Series - At the end of the Darwin bicentennial year, the

case for Alfred Russel Wallace as an ancestor figure to anthropology. Please join the Department of Anthropology for our monthly Faculty Seminar Series. This month's speaker will be Kathleen Lowrey, who will be presenting. Old Arts Lounge (A 232). 3-4 p.m.

Glycoproteins and membrane vesicles - bacteria do that too. Mario Feldman, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta is presenting this seminar. 3:30 p.m. M-145 Biological Sciences

Dec. 12

Jazz Up the Holidays! Multi-Office Dinner and Dance. Looking for a way to celebrate the season with your colleagues or friends and family? Why not enjoy an evening out starting with a champagne punch reception followed by a traditional holiday buffet and then dance the night away to a live Jazz Band! Tickets are \$49.95 each (or \$360.00 per table of 8). 5 p.m. Maple Leaf Room Lister Centre.

Dec. 15

Farewell for Andrew Greenshaw. The Office of the Vice-President (Research) invites you to a campus-wide thank you to Andrew Greenshaw as he completes six years as associate vice-president (research). No RSVP required. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Foyer, Timms Centre for the Arts.

Jan. 6

Art Therapy Information Sessions. An opportunity to learn about art therapy programs at St. Stephen's College; the master of arts in pastoral psychology with art therapy specialization and the postgraduate spiritually informed art therapy certificate. 1-3 p.m. St. Stephen's College.

Jan. 7

Inside/OUT 2009/2010 Speakers' Series: Police Warnings and Sexual Violence: The Mobilization of the

Garneau Sisterhood. Lise Gotell, Professor of Woman Studies at the University of Alberta, will speak about a series of sexual assaults that occurred in an Edmonton neighborhood bordering the University of Alberta in 2008. 5-6 p.m. 7-152 Education North Education Centre.

Jan. 8

Faculty Seminar Series. Please join the Department of Anthropology for our

monthly Faculty Seminar Series. This month's speaker will be Mark Nuttall, and more details will follow shortly. Old Arts Lounge (A 232). 3-4 p.m.

Jan. 11

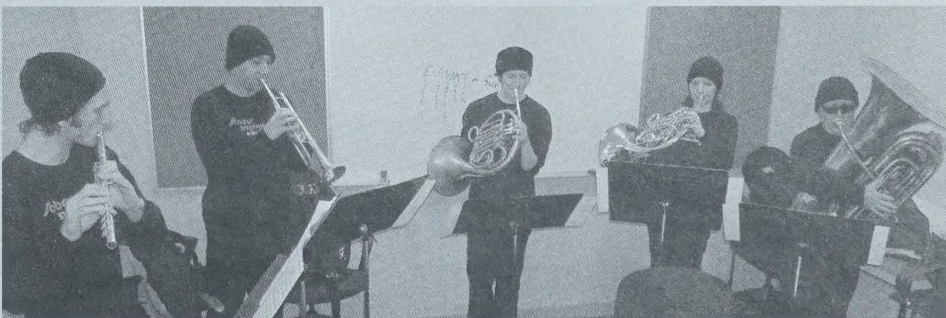
Department of Economics Micro Seminar. John Nyman, professor at the University of Minnesota, will be presenting Something for Nothing: A Model of

Gambling Behavior with John W. Welte and Bryan E. Dowd. 8-22 Tory Building. 3:30 p.m.

Jan. 11 to 15

Involvement Week. A week-long event showcasing Student Groups on Campus and Volunteer organizations on campus. An exciting way to get involved. Students' Union Building.

Fine Arts Events



The sixth floor of the General Services Building became the site of an impromptu Christmas concert on Dec. 8 when the Edmonton Symphony Wassalling Away Team, or E-SWAT, stopped by the U of A to sound in the holiday season and give thanks for the university's support of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra.

Until Dec. 24

Love Letters to Feminism. The Women's Studies Program is pleased to announce the opening of a new art installation in our exhibition space. Curated by Women's Studies student Carolyn Jervis, Love Letters to Feminism: Mail Art from Lovers Everywhere is an installation that considers the kinds of relationships that contributing artists have with feminism. Is it a long-term relationship? An unrequited love? Pure lust? True love? View the art, touch it lovingly, and leave your own love notes. Garden level, Assiniboia Hall.

Dec. 16

Free Art Workout Wednesdays! Shoppers Relief: Drawing Cool-Down. Every workout, whether shopping, work projects or arts, needs a cool down to bring your mind and body back to equilibrium. Today's drawing activities are cool and reflective, giving you breath for the coming weeks. Join Virginia Stephen and colleagues for a session designed for your wellbeing. 12:10-12:55 p.m. Extension Gallery, Atrium Enterprise Square

Jan. 9

Music at Convocation Hall - Arnold Schoenberg: Brettli-Lieder and Pierrot Lunaire. Kathleen Corcoran, soprano, Ardelle Ries, Sprechstimme, Paul Johnson, performer, Bill Damur, flute, Allison Storchuk, clarinet, Guillaume Tardif, violin, Julie Amundsen, cello, Roger Admiral, piano. Opening remarks: Alex Carpenter, musicologist. 8 p.m. Arts and Convocation Hall.

Love letters to feminism

mail art from lovers everywhere

Curated by women's studies student Carolyn Jervis, Love Letters to Feminism features the work of artists from coast to coast and abroad. Women and men submitted works of mail art that express personal engagements and relationships with feminism in this interactive exhibition. The exhibit runs until Dec. 24 in the Women's Studies Program Gallery located in Assinboia Hall. ■

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